

## Calendar

### ADOPTION EVENTS

Please refer to our Web site  
for Adoption Event dates.

### FUND RAISING EVENTS

June, 12th 2005 — Paws in the Park  
Dog Walk, VA Hospital Grounds in  
Bedford, MA.



Save A Dog is run entirely on your  
generous donations. Please con-  
tinue your support of our cause.

## Toby - A Success Story



Thought I would send along some updated pics of the two animals we adopted from you. Toby, the dog, was adopted in October of 2002. He was a bit of a handful (still is!), and you had some concerns about him knocking down the kids (which he did, and still does when excited).....but I hope

you can see from the pics of Toby and the children how much he is loved! He get along well with Annie, our older rescued shepherd mix, and helps to keep her active. He still jumps a little when he gets excited, but he is a real love and wonderful with the kids.

The cat, Rachel, is the mother of the second litter of kittens we fostered. We just couldn't let her go! She is a delight --- "talks" to us all the time, and has absolutely NO fear of the dogs or any of the other animals or humans in the house. In fact, she amuses herself by hiding under furniture and ambushing the dogs as they walk by ---playing with their tails. Everyone is adjusting nicely!

Keep up the great work!

Jennifer 🐾

## Seasons Greetings!

Hi Everyone,

We have a special issue this time that consists entirely of Success Stories! Before you dive in, let me quickly update you on 2004. We had two terrific events, Paws in the Park, our annual dog walk fund raiser, and our benefit Auction, which was held in November at the Natick Elks. We have our volunteers to thank for all their hard work and creativity and a special thanks goes to Dawn Giovannucci, our Fund Raising Director for pulling off these two very successful events. We already have dates for next year's events, so be sure to mark your calendars.

We could not continue to rescue, foster, and adopt out so many needy dogs without your continued support. It never ceases to amaze me how many people come forward to help when we take that step in faith and take in one who might not have otherwise had a chance at life. A few dogs come to mind that deserve special mentioning. Cinnamon, a heart worm positive hunting dog who was thought to be seven, but who turns out is much younger, is one. She had battle scars and a missing toe. Who would adopt this dog, I

thought. Well, I no sooner put the email out to the volunteer list and several people came forward to foster her. In the end she spent all over her treatment weeks at a new foster home with foster dad, Fran Cowan. He spent the time to leash train her, worked on house breaking and now she is available for adoption. If she's still available when you read this, please check out her cute picture on [www.saveadog.org](http://www.saveadog.org) and see if you have room in your heart and home for her. She's a very affectionate dog who had a rough start in life. A huge thank you to all the folks who sent donations to help with her medical expenses.

Another dog I have to mention with thanks to all is Ginger Snap, a petite female Cattle dog mix who came in with her litter. Ginger's pups all had eye problems, a sign of exposure to a serious disease. Your donations made it possible for us to have them tested and treated for leptospirosis, a disease Ginger Snap must have acquired from drinking tainted water when she was a stray. Her puppies, Chocolate Chip, Butterscotch, and Cookie Dough, were among the smartest puppies I've ever had in my care. I clicker trained them in just a few sessions to sit, like down and give paw.

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# Sally, the Waiting Dog

By Shirley Moore

There was nothing about her that drew my attention. Just a dog sitting on top of her igloo-shaped dog house, waiting patiently for a treat. I was at a humane society in a remote part of WV, selecting adoptable dogs to bring back to New England, when I first saw her out of the corner of my eye. As I walked around the yard giving treats to the various dogs who were tied to their make-shift dog houses, most either barked for attention or stood up on their hind legs or jumped straight up into the air, as if to catch any treats that might get tossed in their direction. Sally was a large black and tan Shepherd mix who spread out her big paws to maintain perfect balance on top of her igloo. She sat quietly while all the other dogs barked and carried on. Eventually I came to her, assessed her large size and Rottie-like markings decided she would not fit into the image of what most of our adoptive families wanted. I passed on her and filled my van with small dogs, as many friendly ones as I could fit.

I soon forgot about the "waiting dog" as I'd called her, but upon reviewing my digital photos a few weeks later, saw her picture and was haunted by the image of this polite dog sitting patiently on her igloo. I emailed, June, the shelter manager and learned that her name was Sally and that she was a nice dog who had been around for awhile. I told June to hold Sally for me and I would get her on the next trip. So I ventured down for another group of dogs a month later. I loaded up the van, then went back to load up Sally and she was too big to fit into any of the crates I'd brought. If I did manage to squeeze her in, it would bump a few of the smaller dogs. So I left her behind, once more.

The next trip down I brought an extra large crate just for Sally, I drove the 750 miles with a determination that if she was the only dog I saved that trip, I was not going to leave her behind. As we got her unchained from her dog house I could see she bore the toll of all those months outside. She was missing fur on parts of her face and her ears were all chewed up from the flies. Oh boy, she was a sight for sore eyes. But there was no turning back. She was finally coming back to New England and we'd find her a home.

Not wanting to risk spreading possible mange to the puppies I was fostering, I boarded her at a local kennel and checked up on her from time to time. And boy did she reek. So another volunteer and I decided to give her a bath. Most dogs hate bath time and try to climb out of the tub, so I solicited the help of Stephanie Rohmer, a volunteer who is known as our resident Shepherd expert. As we were bathing her, she just sat there and looked up at me the whole time with the biggest brown eyes. She didn't like the bath,



but never struggled to get out of the tub, and spent the whole time just gazing up at me. I was smitten. "Okay, that's it." I said. "You're coming home with me." She hopped into my van all clean and shiny, her black coat just glimmering in the sun. Funny thing, we didn't see any signs of mange once we scrubbed all the scabs away.

Once I got her home we went outside into the back yard and she ran and ran around every tree, leaping for joy. What a gorgeous creature. (It's amazing how these shelter dogs look like a totally different dogs once you get them home.) And it turned out that she knew just about every obedience command in the book. I was amazed at the speed with which she performed all the obedience commands, punctuated her sits with an occasional raised paw. Once she saw I was starting to bond, she started to talk, as shepherds sometimes do, and I know without a doubt she was telling me her story and also admonishing me for leaving such a well trained dog behind -- twice, no less, She went on for a good ten minutes, talking to me in dog talk that needed no translator. Tears flowed down my cheeks onto her soft black fur. As I nuzzled my face in her coat, I promised to find her the best home, or she had a home with me forever.

And don't you know that as soon as I set my sights on keeping this treasure of a dog, a wonderful couple came to our adoption event and fell head over heels in love with her. I was not in a hurry to give her up, but was won over by the stories they told me of the dog they'd loved and lost. They offered Sally a home on the North Shore near a beach where she could romp and play. Sally now has "the life" in her new home and is spoiled with lots of squeaky toys and treats and romps at the beach. It gives me goose bumps when I think about how I almost left such a wonderful dog behind and it makes me wonder how many other fantastic and deserving dogs are out there, just waiting patiently for a chance. That's what keeps me and so many other volunteers at Save A Dog going. 🐾

# The Story of Ted and Rudy

By Sheila Loayza

Ted Wallace is a semi retired custom cabinet maker who runs his own business. He has been widowed for several years and lives alone. His son Tommy, a carpenter/contractor, had been remodeling my bathroom. One day Tommy asked "Do you think you could find a dog for my father? He lives alone and I think he would like a companion."

Rudy is a sweet, young Border collie mix that Save A Dog brought up from Kentucky. Her foster Mom, Melanie K, describes her as a great dog craving human attention and was looking for a best friend. Melanie's wish for Rudy was that she find a home with someone who either worked at home or was retired. Hmm, that got me thinking about Ted.

Arrangements were made for the two to meet and I was immediately impressed by Ted's understanding of Rudy's initial anxiety. He let her settle in until before long she was on her back asking for a belly rub. I knew Rudy had made her decision, I only hoped that the decision was mutual. It was and Ted and Rudy have started a new life together.

Rudy goes to work everyday where she has made friends with all the artist and artisans in the building. She seems to have become the mascot. She loves riding in the van and going for walks at Farm Pond where she protects Ted from all the chipmunks. There was also an unfortunate encounter with a skunk, which require serious bathing but left her wavy black coat even shinier. She lives the life of Riley in her air conditioned room.

Ted has spread the word that Rudy was in danger of being euthanized and was rescued by Save A Dog. Everyone was amazed that Rudy was a shelter dog. Many people still believe that dogs that end up in Shelters are "bad dogs". So a senior citizen and a once homeless dog are spreading the word that adoption is the way to go.



Ted states that he couldn't have asked for a better dog. His son Tommy says that Rudy has added ten years to Ted's life.

As for Rudy, she looks beautiful with bright eyes, a shiny coat and the assurance of a dog that knows she is loved and knows where she belongs. She just doesn't want Ted out of her sight! 🐾

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## Seasons Greetings (cont.)

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They were such eager beavers. They all got great homes and two of the puppies continued in my puppy kindergarten class. I have to make mention of Lucky Joe and to thank you all for your support. He is one of the most emaciated dogs we've ever met and was quite sick when he came into our care. He was in a high volume shelter in VA and they said that he had bad diarrhea, but would die the next day if we didn't take him. We took a chance and through help from Slade's in Framingham and the Southboro Veterinary Hospital we were able to diagnose a malabsorption problem that was easily solved with enzymes. As I write this, today is the first time I watched this one year old dog play. It's hard to believe this gorgeous dog was left on the side of the road with just a blanket. His story is a mystery to me as he knows how to sit pretty on his haunches with his little paws raised in a begging manner. We're looking for a special home for him as an only dog with a stay at home adult who promises to spoil him rotten.

To see all the dogs adopted in 2004, go to our Web site, [www.saveadog.org](http://www.saveadog.org) and click on Recently Adopted, then check out Dogs Placed in 2004. Speaking of the Web site, we have Sheryl Palmer, our Web guru volunteer, to thank for the redesign and beautiful new look and functionality. Sheryl has recently moved to Florida but continues to give us Web support from afar. Sheryl also pulled together the before and after pictures of the recently adopted dogs, so that if you send us your success story, there will be a link from your dog's original picture to your success story. Keep those cards and letters coming. It's what keeps us going. We always forward the emails to the originating shelters for encouragement and it thrills everyone to know that the dogs they worked so hard to save got such great homes. Each dog has a story that usually involves some shelter worker moving heaven and earth to save the dog from euthanasia. This includes arranging a foster home, spaying, vaccinations, and transportation. Be sure to read Fionn's story in this issue.

We all look forward to another terrific year of saving dogs and of forging relationships with dog lovers looking for a homeless dog to adopt. 🐾



## Fionn - Our Miracle Dog of 2004



*Fionn, in the back, with his blind friend Loki.*

Fionn, a blind Wheaton Terrier, is our miracle dog of 2004. We got a call on a cold January day from Fall River Animal Control about a dog who was seized from his owner after being left out in subzero weather with no shelter. They had given him a bath and shaved his matted fur and were looking to get him out of the shelter and into a warm foster home. Our volunteers sprung into action and we arranged to get him immediately. The pictures they sent with him showed a llama-looking animal standing hunched over in the snow. His hair hung down in long dreadlocks so that you could not differentiate his head from his tail.

The lack of grooming was the least of his problems, though. His eyes were severely enlarged due to untreated cataracts. We rushed him to our vet, Dr. Sharon Westphal, for an evaluation and medical treatment. Her vet tech, Suzanne, who also works for a canine eye specialist, took him home that night so that she could take him in the fol-

lowing morning. Sure enough, his eyes were too far gone to save and he was very painful from the swelling. Dogs suffer silently and it was obvious he was very sad and in pain. So Dr. Westphal arranged to perform the eye removal surgery immediately. She held onto him through his recovery and a foster home was found.

Volunteer, Mary Dillon, who has adopted a number of special needs dogs from us, took him in and gave him her special TLC. Fionn immediately bonded with her blind senior dog, Loki, and the two of them became inseparable, so much so that Fionn is now a permanent member of the Dillon clan. He is so happy and very adventurous. He is the welcoming committee for all the incoming foster dogs, even licking the faces of little puppies.

Fionn does a great imitation of Patty Duke in the Miracle Worker, the way she walked around with her eyes closed, sort of looking up, her gait a little off, banging around looking for food. He pretty much does the same thing. He's very bright and now knows his way in and out of the house through two sets of doors. He loves walking around the fenced in yard on his own, sniffing and marking. His ability to use his hearing is incredible. When Mary puts on her coat or picks up the keys (and she tries to do these things very quietly), he runs to the front door! He also knows the sound of the Puperoni treat bag and gets right in line with the other dogs!!

Mary says to see him today you would never believe he spent a minute outside as he hates to get his little feet wet in the rain. He now lives the life of luxury where the dogs eat better than the people. He deserves it! 🐾

